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CLAIMS

1. A plastic bag comprising:

5 first and second side walls which together form a bag portion having front and rear faces;

10 an easy-open closure portion comprising a mouth formed at the front of the bag for access to the interior of the bag and a closure flap formed separately from the first and second side walls, said closure flap overlying and closing the mouth and having a region which is peelably attached to the front face such that at least a portion of the closure flap may be peeled away from the front face across the peelably attached region to reveal the mouth, the front face remaining functionally intact;

15 and a closeable region, distinct from the easy-open closure portion, by means of which closeable region the bag is closeable by the user after filling.

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2. A plastic bag comprising:

A first and second side walls which together form a bag portion having front and rear faces;

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an easy-open closure portion comprising a mouth formed at the front of the bag for access to the interior of the bag and a closure flap formed separately from the first and second side walls, said closure flap overlying and closing the mouth and having a region which is attached to the front face, the closure flap including at least one line of weakness defining a portion of the flap which does not include any

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part of the region which is attached to the front face and which portion can be opened by tearing along the line of weakness to expose the mouth of the bag; and

5 a closeable region, distinct from the easy-open closure portion, by means of which closeable region the bag is closeable by the user after filling.

3. A plastic bag comprising:

10 first and second side walls which together form a bag portion having front and rear faces;

15 an easy open closure portion comprising a mouth formed at the front of the bag for access to the interior of the bag and a closure flap formed separately from the first and second side walls, said closure flap overlying and closing the mouth and having a region which is peelably attached to the front face; and

20 a base portion on which the bag may stably stand when containing product;

25 wherein at least a portion of the closure flap may be peeled away from the front face across the peelably attached region to reveal the mouth, such that the front face remains functionally intact.

4. A plastic bag comprising:

30 first and second side walls which together form a bag portion having front and rear faces;

an easy open closure portion comprising a mouth formed at the front of the bag for access to the interior of the bag and a closure flap formed separately from the first and second side walls, said closure flap overlying and closing the mouth and having a region which is attached to the front face; and

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a base portion on which the bag may stably stand when containing product;

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wherein the closure flap includes at least one line of weakness defining a portion of the flap which does not include any part of the region which is attached to the front face and which portion can be opened by tearing along the line of weakness to expose the mouth of the bag.

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5. A plastic bag as claimed in claim 3 or claim 4 comprising a closeable region distinct from the easy open closure portion, by means of which closeable region the bag is closeable by the user after filling.

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6. A plastic bag as claimed in any preceding claim in which the first side wall forms the front of the bag and the second side wall forms the rear of the bag, the said side walls being of substantially the same length.

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7. A plastic bag as claimed in claim 6 wherein the mouth comprises a slit formed in the front face.

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8. A plastic bag as claimed in claim 7 comprising a further line of weakness, formed in the front face, which line of weakness may be ruptured to form the mouth.

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9. A plastic bag as claimed in any of claims 6 to 8 when dependent on any of claims 1, 2 or 5 wherein the closeable region includes end parts of the first and second side walls.

5 10. A plastic bag as claimed in claim 9 wherein the closeable region further includes an end part of the closure flap.

10 11. A plastic bag as claimed in any of claims 1 to 5 in which the first side wall forms the front of the bag, the second side wall forms the rear of the bag and in which the second side wall has an extension beyond the bag portion.

15 12. A plastic bag as claimed in claim 11 wherein the closure flap overlies a part of the first side wall and said extension of the second side wall.

20 13. A plastic bag as claimed in claim 11, when dependent on claim 1, 2 or 5, wherein the closure flap overlies a part of the first side wall and said extension of the second side wall, and wherein the closeable region includes the extension of the second side wall and an end part of the closure flap.

25 14. A plastic bag as claimed in claim 12 or 13 wherein the mouth is defined by the end edge of the first side wall.

15. A plastic bag as claimed in any preceding claim further comprising a second flap depending by means of a fold from an edge of the mouth and extending into the interior of the bag.

30 16. A plastic bag according to claim 15 wherein the second flap is attachable by means of an adhesive to the inside face of the second side wall.

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17. A plastic bag as claimed in claim 1 or 3 or any claim dependent thereon wherein on the portion of the closure flap which may be peeled away any path extending from the boundary of the said portion nearest to the mouth to the boundary of the said portion distant from said mouth must pass through a peelably attached region.

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18. A bag as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2 or any of claims 6 to 17 when dependent on claim 1 or 2 further comprising a base portion on which the bag may stably stand when containing product.

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19. A bag as claimed in claims 3 or 4 or any claim dependent thereon or claim 18 wherein the base portion comprises:

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a base panel connected along opposing sides thereof to the respective first and second side walls by means of first folds, said panel further having a second fold, co-extensive with the width of said side walls and substantially parallel to said first folds, said second fold dividing the base panel into first and second panel leaves, such that the second fold and the panel leaves lie between said side walls with the external faces of the panel leaves towards each other; and

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mitre seals comprising a seal line extending from each end of said second fold to each first fold, along which seal lines the first and second side walls are respectively joined to the base panel.

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20. A bag as claimed in claims 3 or 4 or any claim dependent thereon or claim 18 wherein the base portion comprises a generally rectangular base panel having opposed side edges and opposed end edges and generally triangular end wall portions each depending along a base side thereof from a respective end edge of the base panel, said base

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5 panel being connected to the respective first and second side walls by means of first folds coincident with said respective side edges, said triangular and wall portions having an apex positioned in use above said base panel, and having side edges comprising seal lines extending between said apex and respective corners of said base portion along which the first and second side walls are respectively joined to the said end wall portions.

10 21. A plastic bag as claimed in claim 6 wherein the mouth is defined by the end edge of the first side wall.

15 22. A plastic bag as claimed in claim 1 or 2 or any of claims 6 to 17 when dependent on claim 1 or 2 wherein the bag is further provided with a third flap overlying and peelably attached to the first or second side wall, which third flap depends from the second or first side wall at the end of the bag distant from the closure flap.

20 23. A plastic bag as claimed in claim 2 or 4 or any claim dependent thereon including at least two lines of weakness along which said portion can be opened by tearing.

25 24. A plastic bag as claimed in claim 1 or 3 or any claim dependent thereon wherein the portion of the closure flap which may be peeled away is defined by at least two lines of weakness along which the closure flap is torn to expose the mouth of the bag.

30 25. A plastic bag as claimed in claim 24 wherein the lines of weakness extend from an end edge of the closure flap to points proximate the mouth.

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26. A plastic bag as claimed in any of claims 1 or 3 of any claim dependent thereon wherein the portion of the closure flap which may be peeled away is attached to the front face by means of a peelable adhesive.

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27. A plastic bag according to any of claims 23 to 26 wherein the line or lines of weakness is/are perforations formed in the closure flap.

